

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-21 in the application. In the present response, the Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 8. No claims have been canceled or added. Accordingly, Claims 1-21 are currently pending in the application.

I. Formal Comments and Objections

The Examiner has objected to the drawings due to informalities as indicated by the “Notice of Draftperson’s Patent Drawing Review.” The “Notice” indicates that the drawings are objected to under 37 CFR §1.84 (l) and (p). In response, the Applicants submit replacement drawings (Replacement Sheets 1-5) that provide uniform lines suitable for reproduction and reference characters that are legible. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the drawings.

The Examiner has also objected to the title for not being descriptive of the invention. In response, the Applicants have amended the title and Claims 1 and 8 to more clearly define the invention. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection to the title.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 6,115,808 to Arora. The Applicants respectfully disagree since Arora does not disclose identifying and tracking condition instructions including causing link pointers to

move through conditional link pointer registers that are associated with stages in a pipeline of a processor as recited in independent Claims 1, 8 and 15.

Arora is directed to computer systems and more particularly to detecting hazards in the execution of instruction sequences that use predication.. (See column 1, lines 5-7.) Arora discloses a hazard detection circuit that includes first and second memory regions coupled to a logic circuit. The first memory region stores a predicate status vector that includes a predicate status mask bit. Each status bit of the status vector indicates whether or not its associated predicate is pending (i.e. not ready) or not pending (i.e. ready). (See column 2, lines 32-39.)

Values for the predicate status vector are obtained from registers. (See column 3, lines 32-55.) Arora provides no teaching, however, that the registers are associated with stages in a pipeline nor that the values are moved through the registers. On the contrary, Arora teaches the values do not move through registers but are in a single memory location. (See column 4, lines 57-61 and column 3, lines 32-49.) Thus, even assuming that the predicate status vector values are link pointers as recited in Claims 1, 8 and 15, Arora does not teach registers associated with stages in a pipeline **nor** moving the link pointers through the registers as presently claimed.

Accordingly, Arora does not teach each element of independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 and Claims dependent thereon. Thus, Arora does not anticipate Claims 1-21 and the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102(b) rejection of Claims 1-21.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-21.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace FIGUREs 1-5 with the replacement figures (FIGUREs 1-5) on attached Replacement Sheets 1-5. The proposed Replacement Sheets 1-5 do not delete or add any matter to any of the figures but simply correct informalities (*i.e.*, legible reference numbers).

Attachment: Replacement Sheets 1-5